

TOWN OF WEBSTER
Office of Selectmen
945 Battle Street/Rte. 127
Webster, NH 03303

6:33 pm Selectmen's Meeting – February 4, 2013

Selectmen present: Chairman George Cummings, Selectman Bruce Johnson and Selectman Roy Fanjoy.

The Board signed the payroll and check manifests.

The Board signed the following for Administrative Assistant Judith Jones:

- Selectman Johnson made a motion to accept the Minutes of the Selectmen's Meeting held January 21, 2013 as written; seconded by Selectman Fanjoy and approved.
- Selectman Fanjoy made a motion to accept the non-public session #1 minutes of January 21, 2013 as written; seconded by Selectman Johnson and approved. These minutes were not sealed.
- Selectman Fanjoy made a motion to accept the non-public session #2 minutes of the Selectmen's Meeting held January 21, 2013 as written; seconded by Selectman Johnson and approved. These minutes are sealed.
- Selectman Johnson made a motion to accept the Selectmen's Work-Session Minutes held January 30, 2013 as written; seconded by Selectman Fanjoy. Though approved by a majority, Chairman Cummings abstained as he had not read the minutes. At this time Chairman Cummings took the opportunity to clarify that on January 21st he had proposed a new Article 8 for the Town Warrant regarding whether or not to keep the Police Department. He stated that it had a very short draft life span as after speaking with someone other than a Selectman, who gave him their thoughts, he agreed that it should not be on the warrant and requested Mrs. Jones to remove the article.
- Approved and signed a Veteran's Exemption.
- The appointment sheet for Therese E. Larson as an Alternate to the Agricultural Commission until 3/31/13.
- A sick leave slip for Mrs. Jones.

Chairman Cummings advised that the history of the Road Agent's position had been researched and reviewed. Of particular interest was the continuation of the position after a contract expires. He noted that under RSA 41:3 regarding tenure of office it states that "All town officers shall continue in office until the next annual meeting and until others shall be chosen or appointed" He also noted that any appointment or position cannot exceed a timeframe of more than three-years.

Financial Administrator Wendy Pinkham advised that the FEMA paperwork for Hurricane Sandy has been signed and returned and a check should arrive shortly for \$8,705.38. She advised that Mr. Williams did the final paperwork for this event, though that was not the normal procedure as Mrs. Pinkham generally does all the paperwork. Road Agent Emmett Bean thanked Wendy for her assistance.

Mrs. Pinkham pointed out that Legislative Bulletin #6 had House Bills relevant to the NH Retirement relative to annuitants, part-time, etc. noting there were quite a few things that would financially affect towns if some of the House Bills and Senate Bills were to pass. She requested that the Board read this Bulletin. Chairman Cummings noted that these are proposed articles that have not yet passed. Selectman Johnson inquired if this would again cause a downshifting of additional costs to the municipalities to which Mrs. Pinkham confirmed that it would. Chairman Cummings noted that this downshifting was the biggest reason for an increase in the next proposed annual Town budget. Mrs. Pinkham then presented the projected revenues, noting that there would be some changes, and requested that the Board review it as they need to sign off on the revenues. She also noted that the Auditors will be in the office for three days next week.

There was discussion on the expected increase in the net value of the Town due to new housing as well as improvements made to property and other issues relative to the Town's revenues such as Flood Control money. Selectman Johnson has been in contact with Webster's representatives regarding better reimbursement of the Flood Control money and other sources of revenues to the communities.

BOS Initials:

G. C. Cummings

B. G. Johnson

R. E. Fanjoy

Police Chief Dupuis advised the Board of the following:

- There were 45 calls for service in the last two weeks with the highlights read.
- He received the e-mails from the Board members regarding the Police Policies and Procedures though they have not yet been approved. Selectman Fanjoy made a motion to accept the Police Policies and Procedures as proposed; seconded by Selectman Johnson and approved.
- Chief Dupuis requested and received permission from the Board to contact Town Counsel.

Fire Chief Colin Colby advised the Board of the following:

- There have been 12 calls to date. Because the new Thermal Imaging Cameras were not fully charged, the Department was unable to try the cameras out at the recent chimney fire that they responded to.
- Department Members went to Hopkinton for the SCBA training held at a building they have and the Department has been invited back for more training.
- Rob Farley, from the State Firemen's Office, came by last Thursday and did training on the Firehouse Software with Kerrie Jenovese, Rob Wolinski and himself. He also updated the administrator in the system, which had not been done since Adam Pouliot left, so that the reports due to the State could be generated. Mr. Farley recommended that the reports be done on a monthly basis going forward. Mr. Farley stayed for the Department's monthly business meeting to discuss the importance of being specific when filling out the run reports in case of future litigation.
- The Capital Area annual training meeting will be in Bow.
- He advised that the Department logged 2,021 hours in 2012 in training and calls.
- This Thursday there will be a training class on the Thermal Imaging Cameras.
- The Forestry Truck was picked up last Saturday after the ice water rescue training at St. Paul's School. There is a work detail tonight to put it back in service.
- Norm Provencher is heading the updates on the Standard Operating Procedures and gives monthly status reports.

Road Agent Emmett Bean advised that the last two weeks have provided a mixture of weather. The dirt roads are a bit rough. Selectman Johnson noted that Webster's roads are in better shape than some of the abutting towns and thanked Mr. Bean for that. Expressing concern over the upcoming weight limit posting, Mr. Bean inquired about recent Intentions to Cut that may have been filed, which there were none, and also requested that the Board remind Copart of this practice as he was concerned that they may believe that it does not apply to them. Chairman Cummings will pay them a visit though he had already advised them of the spring posting of roads last fall. There was discussion on who was affected by the posting and the inconveniences it can cause.

Treasurer Mary Smith advised that everything is fine. She again encouraged and pushed for direct deposit, especially for Fire Department Members.

Selectman Johnson attended a Shared Service meeting in Andover last week. There was a presentation from Inter-Local, an insurance company, interested in working with them. Boscawen has gone with them this year and indicated that they were now paying lower premiums. This was for health insurance only. He assured Mrs. Pinkham that he would listen to all concerns from those currently covered before any changes were made. He will prepare more information later, noting that the company had said that the first year may not be the best, indicating that there could be longer contracts that would be more beneficial financially. He again noted that the larger pool of people from Shared Services the lower the cost. He also has invited the Shared Services Committee to the Energy Committee Meeting next week where there will be a presentation on the solar panels and the pellet heating system being considered.

Chairman Cummings advised of the need for the Board to take a tally vote for the Warrant Articles, after the Public Hearing is held. The decision was to post a Selectmen's Work Session on Tuesday, February 12th at 8:00 pm. The Board will meet in the Selectmen's Office. As Selectman Fanjoy will be out of Town, he will be reached by phone so that the entire Board could vote.

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Again Chairman Cummings noted that Selectman Johnson was being pro-active by contacting Webster's representatives for regarding the Flood Control Reimbursement issue. Selectman Johnson explained what he has done and who he has contacted to date.

Chairman Cummings reported on the reported bubbler at a Lake Winnepocket residence. He advised that they are now removing the dock from the lake. He did however, leave a copy of the Statue and advised them of the requirements to file a permit and post "Thin Ice" at the location should they ever put a bubbler in.

The letter to the Town of Salisbury was e-mailed by Chairman Cummings to all parties involved for review. He indicated that he checked the sites that were in the Interim Agreement. He referred to the "actual cost" referenced in the letter saying that the way he phrased it in the final version was "the detail rate", which should cover all of the costs including administrative expenses. He also noted that the rate would be billed in whole hours only. Chief Dupuis inquired as to any minimum of hours, but was advised that this different and would be billed on an hourly basis. Discussion ensued regarding calls; hours; times; State Police coverage; etc. Chairman Cummings asked Chief Dupuis how often Webster has depended on State Police coverage. Chief Dupuis did not think that it was more than 40 hours last year.

Chairman Cummings asked if Chief Dupuis had received the e-mail with his contract. Chief Dupuis advised that he had not.

Chairman Cummings noted that the 2013 Town Warrant was sent and reviewed by Town Counsel and the Department of Revenue and was approved with minor changes, which have been made. Selectman Johnson will forward the Board's report for the Town Report when finished and Chairman Cummings will again review the dedication and provide any changes.

7:29 pm Chairman Cummings called for a short recess while he printed out the letter to the Town of Salisbury for the Board's signature and e-mailed the Police Contract to Chief Dupuis as well as print the contract.

7:48 pm Chairman Cummings reconvened the meeting.

Moderator Robert Pearson met with the Board to discuss election-day duties. He inquired as to any policy in place for Police coverage during the Town Meeting. There is nothing formal, though an officer is usually in attendance. Chairman Cummings noted that the Board can request specific coverage just as Mr. Pearson can. Discussion continued on changes to improve the safety of the road in front of the Town Hall; sound system; seating capacity; responsibilities; breaks; who would handle any hand counts; etc. Mr. Pearson was invited and will attend the Public Hearing on February 12th.

Chairman Cummings noted that the Board had considered having a "sweep" article on the 2013 Warrant this year for the operating budget as many of the surround towns do, indicating that this would shorten the duration of the Town Meeting. However, this is not being done this year, but the Board is considering it for the future.

Selectman Johnson noted that many townspeople spoke to him about the "mean spirited" attitude at last year's meeting. Discussion ensued.

There is an upcoming "Moderator's Workshop" on February 23rd, which Mr. Pearson plans to attend as does Selectman Fanjoy. Mrs. Pinkham will check on the registrations and will make sure that they are all set.

Chairman Cummings opened the meeting to the public, but there were no comments.

8:19 pm Selectman Fanjoy made a motion to go into non-public session pursuant to RSA 91-A:3 II (a) regarding contract/personnel issues with Chief Dupuis; seconded by Selectman Johnson. Roll call: Chairman Cummings – yes; Selectman Johnson – yes; and Selectman Fanjoy – yes. Mrs. Jones was not requested to attend.

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9:04 pm Chairman Cummings reconvened the meeting advising that the Board concluded the Police Chief's Contract, which will be public and that the Board voted not to seal the minutes. He advised that probably by or at the next meeting the Board will go back and identify those other minutes that were non-public, pending the outcome of the contract, and change those to public as well. Selectman Johnson volunteered to make a list of those minutes.

Immediately following Selectman Johnson made a motion to adjourn the meeting; seconded by Selectman Fanjoy and approved.

George C. Cummings, Chairman
BOS/jj

Bruce G. Johnson

Roy E. Fanjoy

BOS Initials:

G. C. Cummings

B. G. Johnson

R. E. Fanjoy